Claim Amendments

These amendments modify the Examiner's Amendment set forth in the Notice of Allowance dated March 2, 2006.

- 11 (currently amended): A method of monitoring the progression of HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising:
- (a) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the patient, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3⁻ and CD11c⁻; and
- (b) comparing the number of pDC2 cells in said sample with the number of pDC2 cells in a —appropriate—control sample, where the control sample is from a subject or subjects free of HIV infection or AIDS,

wherein a number of pDC2 cells in the patient sample below the number of pDC2 cells in the control sample indicates that HIV infection or AIDS is progressing.

- 15 (previously presented): A method of assessing the effectiveness of a therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition in treating, inhibiting or ameliorating HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising measuring and comparing the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the subject before and after treatment with the therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3 and CD11c, and wherein an increase in the number of pDC2 cells in the sample after treatment indicates that the composition is effective.
- 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the blood sample is a peripheral blood sample.
- 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting CD4⁺ CD3⁻ CD11c⁻ cells.

- 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.
- 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.
- 26 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein the blood sample is a peripheral blood sample.
- 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting CD4⁺ CD3⁻ CD11c⁻ cells.
- 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.
- 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.
- 30 (currently amended): A method of monitoring the progression of HIV infection or AIDS in a patient, the method comprising:
- (a) measuring the number of pDC2 cells in a lymphoid tissue or blood sample obtained from the patient, wherein the pDC2 cells are CD4⁺, CD3⁻ and CD11c⁻; and
- (b) comparing the number of pDC2 cells in said sample with the number of pDC2 cells in a -appropriate- control sample, where the control sample is from a subject or subjects having HIV infection or AIDS that is progressing,

wherein a number of pDC2 cells in the patient sample above the number of pDC2 cells in the control sample indicates that HIV infection or AIDS is not progressing.

- 32 (currently amended): The method of claim 30, wherein the blood sample is a peripheral blood sample.
- 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the pDC2 cell number is determined by counting CD4⁺ CD3⁻ CD11c⁻ cells.
- 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated before counting.
- 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the pDC2 cells are isolated by magnetic-bead depletion of B, T and natural killer (NK) cells and monocytes, followed by fluorescence activated cell sorting.